GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4123
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
REDUCTION OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to reduce the number of fair price shops and other Public Distribution System outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private traders will be given more responsibility on this count;

(d) whether any studies have been done on this new initiative by Government and the workability of such a private sector in the PDS system;

(e) whether this experiment has been tried anywhere in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a), (b) (c): The Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibilityof the Centre and State Governments. The administrative responsibility of distribution of the commodities under the PDS through the network of fair price shops to the consumers rests with the State Governments. The decision regarding the opening/closing of the fair price shops and other PDS outlets in a particular area is taken by the respective State Government/UTAdministration taking into account the local needs of the population and the economic viability of the outlets. However, the State Governments/UTs have been requested to ensure one fair price shop for every 2000 persons subject to exceptions in view of the population density, terrain of the area etc. They have also been advised to ensure that no consumer/card holder has to travel more than 3 KM to reach his/her fair price shop. Majority of the Fair price shops are owned by the private traders in the country.

(d) & (e) : No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.